



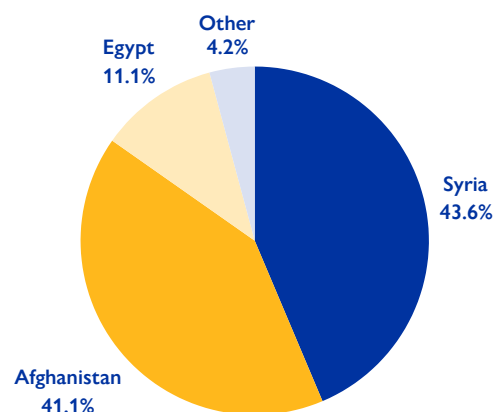
Table tennis game in RRC Sofia - Voenna Rampa  
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## CONTEXT

In 2024, IOM Bulgaria continued managing two Safe Zones for unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in the State Agency for Refugees' (SAR) Registration and Reception Centres (RRC) in Sofia - Voenna Rampa and Ovcha Koupel. Since their establishment in 2019 and 2020, over 10,000 UAMs have been accommodated therein. IOM provides support through registration and accommodation, social, legal, and psychological consultations, medical care, information sessions, interpretation and cultural mediation, non-food item distribution and the organisation of arts, sports, non-formal educational activities, and excursions to cultural, historical, and nature sites.

In 2025, a new project with the SAR as lead beneficiary, and IOM, UNICEF Bulgaria and several municipalities as co-beneficiaries, will be launched. This project includes the management by IOM of the two Safe Zones in Sofia, as well as the recently established Safe Zone in RRC Harmanli.

### UAMs by country of origin



## OVERVIEW OF OUR ASSISTANCE



**1,352**

Total number of UAMs accommodated in the two Safe Zones



**146**

Number of psychological consultations



**755**

Number of social consultations



**221**

Non-formal educational activities organised by IOM



**558**

Creative and recreational activities organised by IOM



**246**

UAMs who received medical assistance with support from IOM



**404**

Information sessions organized by IOM



**122**

Sports activities organized by IOM

Data for the period  
1 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2024



Drawing session with a cultural mediator from IOM  
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## HIGHLIGHTS



### IOM at the Second Edition of the Migration Biennale – Dialogue and Exchange of Experiences

On December 20, 2024, IOM Bulgaria participated in the Second Migration Biennale at New Bulgarian University, hosted by CERMES. The event fostered dialogue among migration organizations, students, and professors, highlighting human stories behind migration. IOM shared its programs, sparking discussions on Safe Zones and unaccompanied minors, while students proposed ideas for supporting migrant children.



### Sport activities at the Safe Zones in RRC Sofia

In 2024, the IOM staff in the Safe Zones organized over 120 sports activities for unaccompanied minors, offering a variety of options to support their physical well-being and social interaction. These regular activities included football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, badminton, gym workouts, and more. These sports activities helped foster teamwork, physical fitness, and positive social connections among the minors.



### Creativity at the Safe Zones in RRC Sofia

In 2024, IOM Bulgaria organised a variety of creative activities for unaccompanied minors in the Safe Zones, including drawing, clay modelling, collage making, and more. These regular workshops provided the minors with a platform for self-expression, creativity, and emotional well-being. The activities helped foster a sense of accomplishment, encouraged individual creativity, and promoted positive engagement among the minors.



Opening of "Here, Where I Am" photo exhibition  
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### "Here, Where I Am" – Photo Exhibition

The photo exhibition "Here, Where I Am," that opened on October 15, 2024, at the Swimming Pool in Sofia, showcased the creative works of five unaccompanied minors accommodated in IOM's Safe Zone in RRC Sofia - Ovcha Kupel. Curated by photographer Mihaela Vatcheva as part of the "Photo Workshop 66" initiative, the exhibition highlighted the resilience and creativity of refugee children through deeply personal photo stories capturing life in Sofia. Supported by IOM, UNHCR Bulgaria, and other partners, the project empowers young refugees with tools for self-expression and has been recognized as a best practice for integration by the European Commission.

## DONORS



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the European Union

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